

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9372

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 4303

FOR USDEL SECRETARY MONROVIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, KE, PORG, UNCTAD

SUBJ: MINISTER FOR-COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELIUD MWAMUNGA:
BIOGRAPHIC DATA

REF: NAIROBI 4138 (NOTAL)

AS REPORTED REFTEL, ELIUD MWAMUNGA ASSUMED PORTFOLIO AS
MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN APRIL 28 CABINET
RESHUFFLE. BIOGRAPHIC DATA FOLLOWS ON MWAMUNGA WHO IS SCHEDULED
TO REPLACE FORMER MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY JULIUS
GIKONYO KIANO AS CHAIRMAN OF MAY 3-28 NAIROBI UNCTAD-IV MEETING.
ELIUD MWAMUNGA, 40, A MEMBER OF TAITA TRIBE, IS A RELATIVE
NEWCOMER TO NATIONAL KENYAN POLITICAL SCENE HAVING BEEN FIRST
ELECTED AS DEPUTY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1969. PRIOR TO HIS
ELECTION, MWAMUNGA STUDIED AT ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOL (WHERE MOST
HIGH-LEVEL KANYAN POLITICIANS RECEIVE SECONDARY EDUCATION), MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN UGANDA AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DAR ES SALAAM.
MWAMUNGA WAS RE-ELECTED IN OCTOBER 1974 BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
IN A FIVE-MAN RACE. HE RECEIVED THE PORTFOLIO OF NEWLY-FORMED
MINISTRY FOR WATER DEVELOPMENT IN A POST-ELECTION CABINET RE-
SHUFFLE. HIS APPOINTMENT TO FULL CABINET RANK MAY HAVE BEEN
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ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S LONG-STANDING

POLICY OF MAINTAINING APPROXIMATELY SAME TRIBAL BALANCE IN
SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. (TAITA IN PREVIOUS CABINET WAS DEFEATED
IN 1974 ELECTIONS). IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AS MINISTER, MWAMUNGA
HAS EARNED HIGH MARKS AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS WHO CONSIDER HIM
AMONG MOST INTELLIGENT, INNOVATIVE AND HARD WORKING MEMBERS OF
GOK. HE REMAINED WISELY APOLITICAL DURING TROUBLES WHICH
FOLLOWED MARCH 1975 MURDER OF PROMINENT PARLIAMENTARY CRITIC
OF GOVERNMENT, J. M. KARIUKI.
DECON 1-1-77.
MARSHALL

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